

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments set forth above and the below remarks.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 19-23 are amended herein.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Lesniewski for his courtesy and consideration during the October 20, 2005 telephone interview with Applicant's attorney Judith Crowley during which the Stone et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,737) was discussed in relation to the pending claims, including independent claims 1, 19, 20 and dependent claims 21-23. Applicants appreciate Examiner Lesniewski's further consideration regarding proposed claim amendments faxed to the Examiner on October 20, 2005. The proposed claim amendments are formally presented herein for consideration.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, and 17-20 are rejected as being anticipated by Stone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,737, hereinafter "Stone") and claims 7 and 12-16 are rejected as being obvious over Stone in view of Nine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,560,611, hereinafter "Nine").

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 19 to specify that the information returned by the executable modules includes at least one of configuration information and customer information and that the database comprises at least one table containing the at least one of the configuration information and the customer information. Claim 20 has been amended to specify that the database comprises a table containing the configuration and attributes information for the managed devices. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 19, and 20 is found on pages 4-5 and 10-11 of the specification, for example.

With regard to claims 1 and 19, it is submitted that Stone neither describes nor suggests at least the arrangement in which information returned by the executable modules includes at least one of configuration information and customer information and in which the database comprises

at least one table containing the at least one of the configuration information and the customer information. Nor does Stone describe or suggest at least the resource-independent device configured to use the executable modules to monitor changes in configuration and attributes information and to store the configuration and attributes information from the executable modules in a database comprising a table containing the configuration and attributes information for the managed devices, as set forth in claim 20.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 19 and 20 are patentable over Stone.

Claims 2-6, 8-11, and 17-18 depend from, and thus include the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 2-6, 8-11 and 17-18 are patentable, at least for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with claim 1.

Claims 7 and 12-16 are rejected as being obvious over Stone in view of Nine. Claims 7 and 12-16 are dependent on claim 1 and thus, include the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 7 and 12-16 are patentable over Stone in view of Nine, at least for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with claim 1.

Applicants have amended dependent claims 21-23 to specify that the at least one table is selected from a customer-resource association table, a customer account table, and a configuration table. Support for the amendment to claims 21-23 is found on pages 11 and 12 of the specification, for example. Consideration of amended claims 21-23 is respectfully requested.

As the claims and the entire case are believed to be in condition for allowance, an indication thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application.

Applicants do not acquiesce to any assertion made by the Examiner that is not specifically addressed herein.

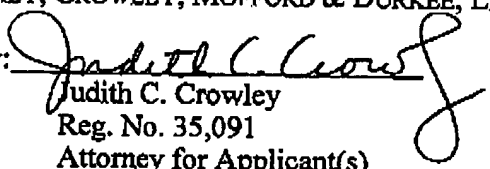
The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500845.

Respectfully submitted,

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